June 6, 2011

Richard N. Gottfried, Member of Assembly
Chairman, Committee on Health
Robert K. Sweeney, Member of Assembly
Chairman, Committee on Environmental Conservation

Re: Joint Public Hearing
SUBJECT: Health Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing Techniques
PURPOSE: To review the potential health effects of hydraulic fracturing techniques used in natural gas and oil drilling.

Dear Chairmen Gottfried and Sweeney,

Delaware Riverkeeper Network is very concerned about the health impacts expected from natural gas development in the Delaware River Watershed. 18.5% of the Delaware River Basin’s land mass lies in the State of New York. Natural gas development in New York State will have direct and inescapable effects on the health and environment of the Delaware River Watershed, both within the State and downstream. More than 15 million people rely on the Delaware River for drinking water, some local and many of them downstream either in New York City (approximately 7 million) and in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware (a total of approximately 8 million).

The location of the Upper reaches of the Delaware River in New York magnifies water quality and quantity and air quality impacts due to the vulnerability of the headwater streams that have their beginning in New York. The land use changes that will accompany the industrialization of the now 89% forested upper watershed alone will have indelible impacts on stream health and environmental quality, in turn affecting human health. But the certainty of groundwater pollution that will result, either in the short term or long term, from hydraulic
fracturing and deep horizontal drilling employed by the industry to access shale gas, is reason enough to not allow natural gas development using these practices to proceed.

We attach a copy of expert reports that were commissioned by Delaware Riverkeeper Network from experts who reviewed the Draft Natural Gas Development Regulations issued by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). Please particularly note Paul Rubin’s report regarding inevitable aquifer contamination from modern shale gas development using hydraulic fracturing. The public comment record is now being reviewed by the DRBC.

We also attach a report by Dr. Daniel Teitelbaum produced for Delaware Riverkeeper Network and Damascus Citizens for Sustainability for an Administrative Hearing process last year. The report is relevant and should be of use in your review as it specifically examines the potential toxicological effects of natural gas development.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We have attached the required Public Hearing Reply Form.

Sincerely,

//s/    //s/
Maya K. van Rossum    Tracy Carluccio
the Delaware Riverkeeper    Deputy Director

Attachments:
Tom Daniels, Ph.D., *Review and Comments on The Delaware River Basin Commission’s Proposed Natural Gas Regulations of December 9, 2010, 2011*
Glenn C. Miller, Ph. D., *Comments to Delaware Riverkeeper Network on the Delaware River Basin Commission’s Draft Proposed Natural Gas Development Regulations, 2011*
Piotr Parasiewicz, Ph.D., *Ecological review of the DRBC Draft Natural Gas Development Regulations, 2011*
Susan Harvey, Harvey Consulting, *Recommendations to Improve the December 9, 2010 Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Proposed Natural Gas Development Regulations, April 7, 2011*
Ron Bishop, Ph.D., *Management of Waste Fluids from Natural Gas Exploration and Production: Comparison of New York State and Delaware River Basin Commission Regulations, 2011*
Michele Adams, P.E., *Comments on Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) DRAFT Natural Gas Development Regulations, 2011*
Daniel Teitelbaum, M.D., P.C., *Delaware River Basin Commission Consolidated Administrative Hearing on Grandfathered Exploration Wells, 2010*
PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Name: Tracy Carluccio

Persons invited to present oral testimony at the public hearing on the health impacts of hydraulic fracturing to be held on May 26, 2011, or who wish to submit written testimony, are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail, email or fax it to:

Michael Szydlo
Committee Assistant
Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation
Room 520 - Capitol
Albany, New York 12248
Email: szydlom@assembly.state.ny.us
Phone: (518) 455-4363
Fax: (518) 455-5182

- I plan to attend the public hearing on hydraulic fracturing to be conducted by the Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation on May 26, 2011.
- I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. My oral statement will be limited to ten minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.
- I will address my remarks to the following subjects:
  - [X] I do not plan to attend the above hearing. Written testimony attached.
  - [X] I would like to be added to the Committees' mailing list for notices and reports.
  - o I would like to be removed from the Committees' mailing list.
  - o I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. Please specify the type of assistance required:

NAME: Tracy Carluccio

TITLE: Deputy Director

ORGANIZATION: Delaware Riverkeeper Network

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